

II. Claim Amendments

Claims 1-31 (Cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer to pursue the Claims of Group II)

32. A *Babesia canis* associated protein, said protein having a molecular weight of 15 kD and comprising an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% homologous to the amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:2 or an immunogenic fragment of said protein.
33. The *Babesia canis* associated protein of claim 32 wherein the amino acid sequence is at least 85% homologous to the amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2, or an immunogenic fragment of said protein.
34. The *Babesia canis* associated protein of claim 32 wherein the amino acid sequence is at least 90% homologous to the amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2, or an immunogenic fragment of said protein.
35. The *Babesia canis* associated protein of claim 32 wherein the amino acid sequence is at least 95% homologous to the amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2, or an immunogenic fragment of said protein.

Claims 36-63 (Cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer to pursue the Invention of Group II)

64. (Currently Amended) A vaccine for combating *Babesia canis* infections, comprising an ~~immunogen selected from the group consisting of~~ a nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein according to Claim 32 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
65. (Currently Amended) The vaccine of claim ~~64~~ 36 further comprising an adjuvant.
66. (Currently Amended) The vaccine of claim ~~64~~ 36 further comprising an additional antigen derived from a virus or microorganism pathogenic to dogs or a nucleic acid sequence encoding said antigen.
67. (Currently Amended) The vaccine according to claim ~~66~~ 38, wherein said virus or microorganism pathogenic to dogs is selected from the group of *Ehrlichia canis*, *Babesia gibsoni*, *vogeli*, *rossi*, *Leishmania donovani*-complex, Canine parvovirus, Canine distempervirus, *Leptospira interrogans serovar canicola*, *icterohaemorrhagiae*, *pomona*,

grippotyphosa, bratislava, Canine hepatitisvirus, Canine parainfluenzavirus, rabies virus,
Hepatozoon canis and *Borrelia burgdorferi*.